

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05080 171550Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2619
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5080

EXDIS DIST AS NODIS

DEPT FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, EG, IS, US, XF
SUBJECT: WEIZMAN VISIT

REF: CAIRO 10915

1. AFTER BRIEFING GIVEN THIS MORNING (APRIL 17) BY FONMIN DIRGEN EVRON TO SELECTED MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON LATEST ISRAELI INTERPRETATION OF SC242 (SEPTTEL) I HAD A CHANCE TO EXPLORE FURTHER WHAT HAD OCCURED DURING LAST WEIZMAN VISIT TO CAIRO. EVRON HAD READ DETAILED RECORD OF TALKS PREPARED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL BARAK, AND CONSULTED BARAK DIRECTLY BY PHONE DURING OUR CONVERSATION TO CLARIFY SOME PARTICULAR POINTS. WHAT FOLLOWS IS THEREFORE BARAK'S VERSION, AND HE IS GENERALLY REGARDED HERE AS HIGHLY RELIABLE AND PRECISE REPORTER.

2. MUBARAK'S ACCOUNT DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL CHECKS QUITE CLOSELY WITH BARAK'S VERSION. BARAK TOLD EVRON THAT HE (NOT WEIZMAN) HAD READ TO SADAT IN EACH OF THE TWO SESSIONS PORTIONS RPT PORTIONS OF THE LATEST ISRAELI DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, BUT HE DID NOT LEAVE
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A FULL TEXT OR INDEED ANY PIECE OF PAPER BEHIND, FOR REASONS WHICH ARE NOT CLEAR TO EITHER EVRON OR ME. IN THE SECOND OF THE TWO MEETINGS, HE HAD STRESSED THE ISRAELI LANGUAGE ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION DEALING WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR FUTURE"THROUGH TALKS." IN THAT CONVERSATION, BARAK ASKED SADAT WHETHER HE INSISTED THAT THERE HAD TO BE A PLEBISCITE AT THE

END OF FIVE YEARS, OR WHETHER THAT ISSUE COULD BE LEFT OPEN FOR THE TIME BEING TO DECIDE LATER IN WHAT FORM THE INHABITANTS WOULD "PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR FUTURE." SADAT RESPONDED, ACCORDING TO BARAK, THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO REFLECT ON THAT QUESTION AND GIVE A REPLY NEXT TIME THEY MET. IT IS THIS EXCHANGE TO WHICH BOTH WEIZMAN AND BARAK HAVE REPEATEDLY ALLUDED IN SAYING THAT THEIR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE BALL TO RESPOND TO THEIR QUESTION IS IN SADAT'S COURT.

3. PARA FOUR OF REFTTEL WITH REGARD TO SADAT'S REPLY ABOUT WHAT BEGIN SHOULD DO TO BE "GALLANT" SQUARES EXACTLY WITH THE VERSION I HAVE NOW HAD FROM BOTH BEGIN AND WEIZMAN AND SECOND-HAND FROM BARAK. IT IS THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGIN ATTACHES SO MUCH IMPORTANCE AND WHICH HE CITES AS CONTRADICTING WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER TOLD HIM ABOUT SADAT'S POSITION WHEN THEY DISCUSSED IT IN WASHINGTON.

4. IN ANY EVENT, THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION AS I SEE IT, IN WHICH, WHILE BOTH PARTIES AGREE MORE OR LESS ON WHAT WAS SAID, THEY HAVE SHARPLY DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF WHO OWES WHO AN ANSWER OR AN INITIATIVE AT THIS POINT.
LEWIS

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NNN

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